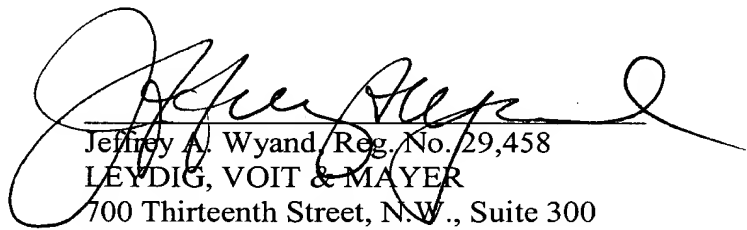


REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's Action mailed September 25, 2002, Applicants propose to amend their application and request reconsideration in view of the proposed amendment and the following remarks. It is proposed to cancel claims 15 and 16, without prejudice, leaving claims 17-20 pending. Claims 15 and 16 will be the subject of a continuing patent application.

The foregoing amendment is made only to place the application in better form for Appeal. No claims are amended or added so that no new issues are raised. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is appropriate and earnestly solicited

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey A. Wyand / Reg. No. 29,458  
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER  
700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20005-3960  
(202) 737-6770 (telephone)  
(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

Date: December 23, 2002  
JAW/tpb